

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claim 72 has been added. Claims 1-14 and 72 are pending with claim 1 being independent.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 3-13

Claims 1 and 3-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,628,944 (Nagasaka).

Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation related to the variation in modulus in the body of the claim. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the product has a gradual variation in modulus through at least a portion of the product. Nagasaka discloses a process of forming a part having a surface layer and an interior layer (e.g., See Abstract). However, Nagasaka fails to teach or make obvious a product with a gradual variation in modulus. Because each limitation of claim 1 is not taught or made obvious by Nagasaka, this claim is patentable over Nagasaka for at least this reason. Claims 3-13 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 15-17

Claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,642,964 (Rausch, Jr.)

Claims 15-17 are not pending. Applicant assumes this rejection was in error. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests its withdrawal.

Rejection of Claim 2

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,271,118 (Piotrowitz).

This claim depends from claim 1 which is patentable over Nagasaka for reasons noted above. Piotrowitz fails to provide the deficiency of Nagasaka with respect to claim 1 and, thus, also this claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection on this ground.

Rejection of Claim 14

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaka in view of Rausch, Jr.

This claim depends from claim 1 which is patentable over Nagasaka for reasons noted above. Rausch, Jr. fails to provide the deficiency of Nagasaka with respect to claim 1 and, thus, also this claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection on this ground.

New Claim

New claim 72 depends from claim 1 and is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons that claim 1 is patentable.

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Respectfully submitted,

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